

Fig. 1. All land in high elevation ecosystems, generally > 4,500 ft. elevation, in Ga., NC, and Tenn. Data in box are presented in Table 1.

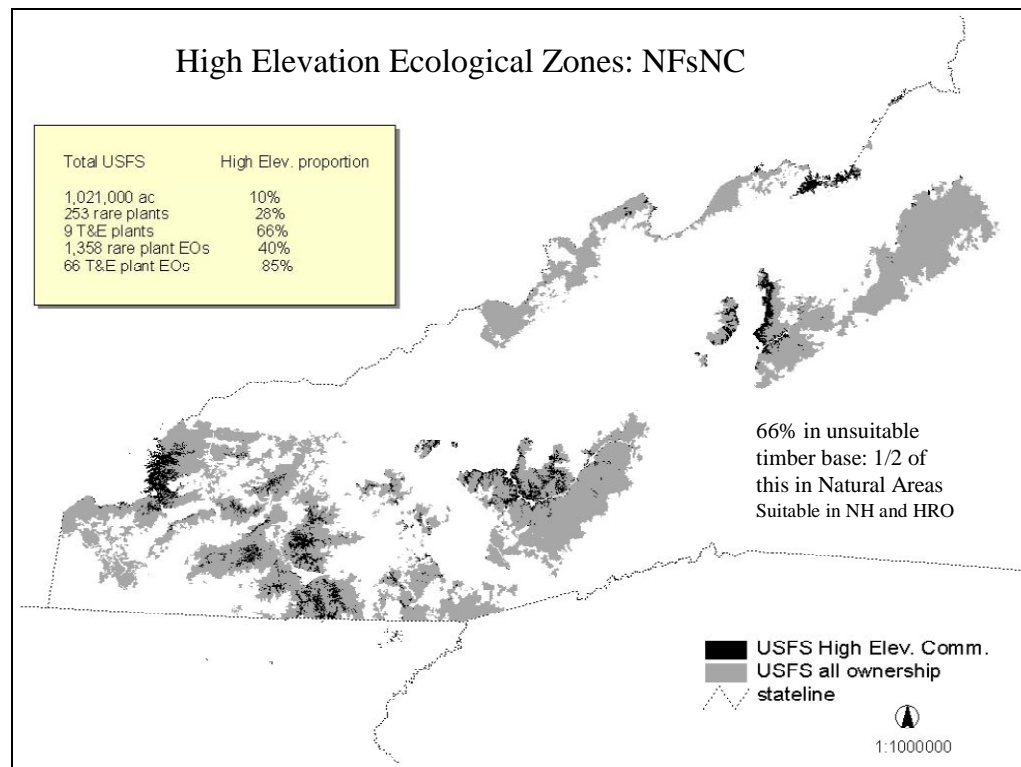


Fig. 2. All National Forest ownership in high elevation ecological zones (~>4,500 ft elev). Data in box are presented in Table 2.

Management of High Elevation [Forest] Resources - A Forest Service perspective*

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Overall goal of national forest land and resources management: Conserve the soil and water resources and prevent significant or permanent impairment of the productivity of the land.

Pisgah-Nantahala (NC) (1,021,000 ac) National Forest activities

1. Mowing and grazing grassy balds (goats, blackberry, trees, rhodo).
2. Harvest of Fraser fir cones and seedlings.
3. Prescribed burns in successional types.
4. Recreation facilities at Roan Mountain, Shining Rock Wilderness.
5. Visual-scenic quality; esp. along Blue Ridge Parkway.
6. Maintain habitat for and safeguard T&E species (Northern flying squirrel (SF/NHW), Indiana bat; Vegetation (plants associated mostly with rock outcrops, grassy balds)
7. Non-timber forest products, such as wild leeks or ramps
8. NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)
9. Access (Sediments are primary water quality pollutant and roads are main source, Acid deposition from roads in soils and bedrock with little acid neutralizing capacity (Anakeesta Formation?)
10. Timber management (66% of high elevation area is in the unsuitable timber class due to thin soils, non stocked w/trees); issues: Stream thermal protection (100 ft buffer), T&E, economics

Cherokee (Tenn) National Forest (632,350 ac) activities

Mostly maintain wildlife habitat on about 1000 acres above 3000 ft. elev.

Very little timber harvest activity on Cherokee NF recently, however about 135 acres being harvested (regeneration and thinning) on the Tellico District, with logs being hauled to Robbinsville, NC.

Table 1. Distribution by vegetation type and ownership of the high elevation ecological zone in NC. Percent of NC land in 395,000 acres of high elevation ecozone (reference Fig. 1).

Ecological zone	NF	GSMNP	BRP	State	Cher.Res.	Pvt	Total
Spruce-Fir	4	13	1	<1	<1	2	20
Northern Hardwoods	14	5	2	<1	<1	27	47
High Elev. N. Red Oak	12	8	1	<1	1	11	32
All zones	30	26	4	<1	1	40	100

Table 2. National forests vegetation issues in high elevation ecological zones (reference Fig. 2).

Item	Pis.-Nan. N.F.s	High Elev. proportion
Area (acres)	1,021,000	10%
Rare plants (species)	253	28%
Threatened & endangered (T&E) plants (spec)	9	66%
Rare plant occurrences (sites)	1,358	40%
T&E plant occurrences (sites)	66	85%

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